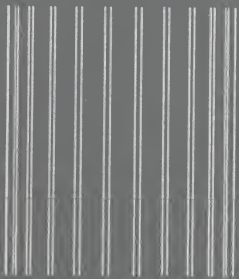


COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



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Columbia Library Columns

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SIR THOMAS BODLEY

1545-1613

His group of "Honorable Friends" at Oxford may be considered the forerunner of all such groups.



COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



History of Library Friends and the Phoenix Story of Columbia

MARY C. HYDE

THIS is a happy occasion¹ for me: one is not often surrounded by so many *friends*! I wonder if you have ever thought about the general subject of friendships such as ours? There were a handful of Library Friends Associations in this country in the 1920's, Columbia included among them. There were fifty by the end of the 1930's; over a hundred in the 1940's; and by the end of the 1950's, five hundred; and now close to a thousand. The proliferation continues. The University of Virginia Library has recently established an active group and so has the American Philosophical Society; the Library of Congress is making plans for one, and the Folger Shakespeare Library has invitations at the printers. You can easily see why the American Library Association has found it necessary to establish a special department devoted to the activities of Library Friends.

How did it all start? Perhaps because there has always been an affinity between libraries and friends. Even in the great Renaissance libraries, which only princes of church and state could afford, founders and friends mingled freely, with mutual pleasure and profit. The pattern of friendship was established early. Jean

¹ The Friends of the Columbia Libraries' 20th Anniversary meeting on March 3, 1971.

Grolier's motto "... et Amicorum" is famous, but he was not the first to use it.

The first group of "Friends" pressed into action that I know about were those of Sir Thomas Bodley, a distinguished diplomat under Queen Elizabeth I, who retired from his duties, refusing to become Secretary of State, in order to spend the last fifteen years of his life forming a library, not for himself, but for Oxford—a fine example of a loyal alumnus.

Sir Thomas's fortune was considerable, but not princely; he knew he could not complete the undertaking himself. However, he had a "great store" of "Honourable Friends," as he called them (a title the Bodleian Library uses today). He appealed to them with force, saying if they failed him the "new foundation would be a vain attempt and inconsiderable." With tireless energy he "stirred up other men's benevolence," particularly needling those who had "purseability" (an attractive word), asking that "every man bethink himself how by some good book or other he may be written in the scroll of benefactors."

Oxford University gratefully accepted Sir Thomas's gift, and establishing a future pattern, the event was celebrated "*in full formality*" in November 1603. Other galas followed, including visits from King James I. But, alas, in 1613 Sir Thomas died; his friends did not continue to "bestir" themselves on their own. The Friends slipped quietly out of Oxford history for over three hundred years.

No official group was formed anywhere until just before the First World War. The distinction of being first goes to the Bibliothèque Nationale. "La Société des Amis de la Bibliothèque Nationale . . ." was founded in 1913. This organization continues in good health today, its large membership is urged to help enrich collections, and "les Amis" are invited to participate in a number of library gatherings. The Bibliothèque Nationale was, incidentally, the first library to have an overseas branch of Friends—that formed in Berkeley, California, in 1930.

"Les Amis" was a very timely idea—realistic and practical—for single gifts of great munificence had become rare, and it was easy to predict that in the future these would become even *more rare*. The obvious solution would be to substitute generosity in small quantities and large numbers, hopefully to equal or perhaps even surpass the single total.

This idea was in the air again in Oxford before the war; in 1912 H. T. Gerrans wrote a letter to the *Oxford Magazine* bemoaning the sad state of Bodleian Library finances. The various Oxford colleges, he thought, should promise an annual grant and individuals should be "invited" to subscribe as "Friends" (he used that word). No action was taken, however, until five years after the war, when St. John Hornby pressed the scheme for such an organization. On the 16th of June 1925 the Friends of the Bodleian were established. As we know, this organization flourishes today, and indeed, since 1957 has had an American branch.

In this country after the First World War, the idea of "Library Friends" began to be considered too. When I started my investigations, I asked at Harvard when their association had been founded. The instant answer was: "I am not sure, but I know it was *before* Yale." Upon writing to the latter institution, I received the reply: "So far as I know Yale was the first American Library to have an organization of this kind. The Bodleian had one somewhat earlier, but I do not know of any others." This is an example of the healthy competition which exists between these two institutions. When I asked Kenneth Lohf, he said—you can guess—very loyally: "I always thought Columbia had the first Library Friends group." Now I have gone into the facts further and this is what I have found.

The first person in this country who seriously considered forming such a group was Archibald Coolidge, "then Director of the Harvard Library . . . [He] was in Europe following World War I and became interested in the work of the Société des Amis . . . at the Bibliothèque Nationale . . . He was convinced that such an organization would have value for Harvard."

Fortunately for Mr. Coolidge, the two important factors which are needed for University Library Friends were present in strength: great teachers who are lovers of books, and generous alumni who have not forgotten the inspiration of their professors—men such as Bliss Perry, Chester Greenough, Charles Townsend Copeland, and George Lyman Kittredge. Their old students greeted the idea of a “Friends of the Harvard Library” with enthusiasm and by 1925 (co-eval with Oxford) there was a functioning group. To illustrate the degree of fervor: in May 1929, forty-three Friends dined together at the Harvard Club in New York City and, round the table at dinner, raised a sum equivalent to all prior contributions to buy books of English prose fiction of the 17th and 18th century for the Library.

At Columbia, “the Friends movement” was being observed with great interest by Professor David Eugene Smith, a much loved teacher of Mathematics, who had retired in 1926 and now had the time to give full attention to his own library, a remarkable collection of the history of mathematics. To acquire more material, he travelled extensively—Europe, the Mid East, the Far East, two trips around the world, eighty crossings of the Atlantic. He cast a wide net, acquiring books, manuscripts, measuring instruments, portraits of mathematicians—anything that seemed pertinent. And he had a close friend, a fellow book collector, George Plimpton, the distinguished publisher. Professor Smith tried to “bestir” *his* interest in helping to form an Association at Columbia; George Plimpton was interested but no formal move was made.

Such a move had been made at Yale two years before Professor Smith’s retirement by Chauncey B. Tinker, another book collector and great teacher, who turned generations of his students into competitive 18th century book collectors. Professor Tinker spoke his mind at the annual Alumni meeting in 1924: he bade the alumni *wake up* and *pay attention* to the needs of the Library. “Millions,” he said, “are to be spent on the new Sterling Library building . . . but the budget for book purchase is . . . woefully inadequate . . .

If the scholarly reputation of the University is to survive, rare books, documents, and manuscripts must be supplied in ever larger quantity." A committee was formed to develop the idea, and in 1928 the matter was presented at a meeting of the Advisory Board of the Library; however, the "Yale Library Associates" (the term chosen) were not incorporated until December 1930. This has been a powerful group, as we well know, benefitting the Yale Library far beyond Professor Tinker's dreams.

But going back to 1928: in November, while the Advisory Board of the Yale Library was discussing possibilities, the "Friends of the Library of Columbia University" was founded. The moving spirit on Morningside Heights, as might be surmised, was Professor Smith. He served as Secretary; his friend, George Plimpton, he persuaded to be President; Columbia's able and devoted Frank Fackenthal was Treasurer—a strong trio of officers. The purpose of the association (basically the purpose of all Friends groups) was to give supplementary aid beyond the yearly library budget, which, everywhere, provides barely enough money for the purchase of current books and journals. This is why there is always emphasis upon rare books and manuscripts—the material that scholars need and the library cannot afford.

Columbia stated the purpose delicately: the Friends, it was hoped, would influence the disposal of books to Columbia; also secure funds. The approach to membership was restrained: the opportunity was simply offered to book lovers, wherever situated, who might be interested in building up any of the Columbia Libraries. Annual dues were \$5. In 1933 dues were abolished altogether because it "became apparent that this comparatively large membership fee [would] restrict membership unduly." In 1936, however, the free policy was deemed a mistake, since without any income at all, there were not even funds for the running expenses of the organization itself. Annual dues of \$2 were regretfully requested.

The Columbia Friends initiated a newsletter, entitled *Bibliotheca*

Columbiana. This was a stapled sheet of a varying number of pages (nine to nineteen); it came out "from time to time" and reported on library activities. The life of *Bibliotheca Columbiana* was four years—four issues. A well-written journal, full of news; it was the only contact with the membership, for publicity was shunned. There were no meetings. Certainly no "elaborate dinners."

"Elaborate dinners" were a basic activity of the Princeton Library Friends, a kindred organization which had by now been formed. Again, the same background, the great Chaucerian, Dean Root, persuaded "influential alumni" interested in books to bring the Princeton Library "up to several levels in the eyes of scholars and collectors." Apparently, at Princeton the "influential alumni" took control at once: they offered members an elegant rag paper journal called *Biblia*, and they enjoyed each other's company at sumptuous annual dinners in New York, honoring such dignitaries as John Galsworthy and the Pulitzer Prize winners.

Extravagant dinners, of course, meant that there was no money left to spend on books, which seemed ridiculous to scholars whose chief concern was to strengthen the Library's holdings. But the importance of conviviality should not be underestimated: increased membership resulted, increased knowledge of the Library's collections and problems. And going over the guest lists, one finds that many of the *early diners* became generous *later donors*.



President Hoover
and George Plimpton in 1932.

But to return to Professor Smith: he started things off by generously presenting his superb collection on the History of Mathematics. This included medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, and incunabula. A few years later he added his collection of measuring instruments and mathematicians' portraits, and ultimately he left a large bequest for future purchases.

Generosity generates generosity. The Japanese Culture Center presented its extensive collection of books and manuscripts on Japanese history, literature, art and culture. And this was followed by official chronicles of Japan (a period of 1000 years), given by the Imperial Household. "A debt," the Columbia Librarian said in accepting the gift, "which can only be repaid by brilliant academic achievement in this field of study."

An example of a distinguished alumnus's *directed* activity was the gift of Mexican law books, bought with Columbia guidance, by Dwight Morrow (Law '99), while Ambassador to Mexico.

An extraordinary Sanskrit Collection was given by Justin Abbott, an authority on the religious heritage of India. His and his father's connection with India covered 98 years. He was a friend of Professor Smith.

In 1933 the indefatigable Professor Smith travelled to Persia, Iraq, Palestine and Syria, acquiring over 20,000 more items for his collection, including Babylonian cuneiform tablets.

The next year a great Hebrew Collection was purchased in Vienna (material from the 10th c. to the present), the finest collection of Hebrew manuscripts in the United States with the exception of that at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

The renowned Avery Architecture Library was annually "enriched." This is the most frequently repeated verb in the pages of *Bibliotheca Columbiana*; "enriched" in the 1930's by acquiring the great runs of architectural books from the Roman Vitruvius to the American Asher Benjamin.

Various Columbia schools were given gifts (now to be found in Special Collections): to the Chemical Library, Edward Ep-

steans's extensive collection of photography; to the Business School, the Richard Meade Collection of Motor Transportation (the story of the motor taxi replacing the hansom cab), and the Charles

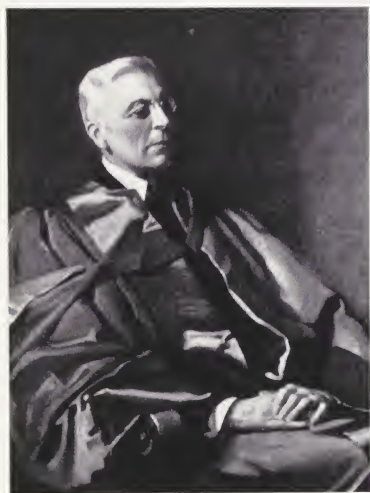


David Eugene Smith (4th from left) and group at entrance to monastery in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, in 1934.

Moran Collection of Railroad Transportation. (Charles Moran's son, incidentally, in the 1940's, gave Columbia two Washington diaries—the only two not in the Library of Congress.) To Teachers College, early education books; and to the Columbiana Collection, old diplomas, photographs, all kinds of memorabilia, including President Barnard's six foot long ear trumpet.

There were many sorts of friends: one Architecture graduate, remembering the hard usage he had once given Avery books, made a generous contribution for new purchases. Another Friend expressed his individuality by giving a different desideratum to a different Columbia Library each year.

Bibliotheca offered "suggestions" for gifts (today a popular custom); it also offered its readers helpful hints, such as directions to care for their fine bindings in steam heated houses and apartments; it also welcomed them, if they would like, to join the



EDWARD S. HARKNESS

He gave to President Nicholas Murray Butler the funds to build Columbia's new main library which was opened in 1934.

"Book Study Club" (1931-1936), an organization inspired by the Elizabethan Club at Yale. The list of lecturers to this group covers the great names in the book world of the time. Reading through the issues of *Bibliotheca*, one realizes the immense amount of activity going on: cataloging of the new collections, research, publication.

This was in the Depression, but a great library building was going up, "to take care of the University's needs for the next fifty years." In 1934 it opened; the building being a single princely gift from Edward Harkness. It was then called "South Hall"; it was not named

for Nicholas Murray Butler until after his death. You may be interested to know, since we are dealing with relationships, that the design for the new Bodleian Annexe, built just before World War II, was modelled on the architectural scheme of Butler, the last great library to be built on the "central plan": that is, stacks in the center, corridors, offices, studies surrounding. The Princeton Library, the first great library to be built after the War, introduced the popular new "modular" concept.

It was planned that the old Columbia Library, Low Memorial, would continue to be used in part for library purposes: rare books

in most of the west wing and the major section of the east wing on the second floor. The Rotunda, formerly the Main Reading Room, would become an "exhibition, reception, and ceremonial room." Its inauguration in this new guise was a "function to celebrate the Thousandth Anniversary of Firdausī, the epic poet of Persia [8 November 1934]." In the choice of event I think I detect the guiding hand of Professor Smith.

In 1936 came the superb gift of George Plimpton's Library, devoted to the seven liberal arts and the tools of learning. As the citation for his honorary degree in 1929 succinctly put it, "the most unique and complete collection in existence of books and manuscripts to illustrate the development of scholarship in teaching." There were over seven thousand textbooks, and over five thousand rare books, many of great importance such as Melanchthon's copy of Homer, with Melanchthon's notes, inscribed by him to Luther—a 1517 Aldine to boot! And Erasmus's copy of Herodotus, likewise an Aldine, 1502. And a cuneiform tablet—the first appearance of the Pythagorean theorem—"Plimpton 322" is known throughout the world.

All this activity was manifest during the lean thirties, while other Friends associations were faltering. But, somehow, Professor Smith, that grand old gentleman, seemed to be able to keep things going. In 1936, however, age and poor health forced him to give up activity in the Friends. The organization at once lost momentum. *Bibliotheca* ceased, the last issue in June 1936, and in 1938 the organization died.

After the war, however, Phoenix-like, there were stirrings again on Morningside Heights and talk of forming a new association. Henry Rogers Benjamin, Chairman of the Development Program, Dallas Pratt, Chairman of Planning, and Carl M. White, the Director of Libraries, appointed a committee of seven members to consider possibilities. This Committee had a number of meetings, plans were made, and on February first 1951 President Kirk designated the "Committee" as the "Council" of the new "Friends of

the Columbia Libraries." A Founding Meeting took place on the first of May, in the Rotunda of Low Memorial. Professor Mark Van Doren evoked nostalgic memories of the meeting place, which he remembered as the Main Reading Room. August Hecksher, speaking for the Council, followed with a stirring plea for membership. By autumn there were a hundred Friends.

We are now some four hundred strong—some six hundred and fifty, counting spouses. We have an outstanding journal, *Columbia Library Columns*, published regularly three times a year. Dallas Pratt has been our invaluable editor since the start. And we have three dinner meetings a year—autumn, winter and spring. The last, the Bancroft Prize Dinner, must surely be even more "sumptuous" than those early Princeton Dinners, and it is in itself an important annual event in the world of History. It is made beautiful every year by Mrs. Lenygon and Mrs. Holden. Furthermore, our coffers are not depleted because all costs are paid for by the Bancroft Foundation. (Edgar A. and Frederic Bancroft were friends of Professor Nevins and Professor Comager.)

We have been able to make important purchases over the years: the John Jay Collection, bought with the help of Friends, foundations, and the Class of '25 (at the persuasion, I am sure, of our Chairman); the Berlioz Collection, purchased in memory of Roland Baughman, long the devoted Head of Special Collections; the Tennessee Williams material—I am just mentioning a few. But I must include an inexpensive purchase in the 1920's—"a heap of papyri." Each bit has recently been put under protective glass. One of these turned out to be the now celebrated fragment of the *Odyssey*: you can see it in our display in the Rotunda, along with twenty splendid items which were purchased by our Friends association over the past twenty years and given to the Libraries.

As for gifts, Columbia has had some stunning ones: the unequalled Library of Plastic Surgery given by Dr. Jerome P. Webster, head of this Department at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. His library, which he continues to direct, is both a

collection of rare books (the earliest mentions of the subject) and a collection of the latest research material: over 5,000 books, 8,000 theses, 17,000 articles and more than 60,000 patient case histories.

Gifts in other fields include the fine Thomas and Fanny Dale Library of Weights and Measures, a valued companion to Professor Smith's earlier gifts; the outstanding Park Benjamin Collection of New York literature, given by William E. and Henry Rogers Benjamin, and the latter's sister Beatrice Benjamin Cartwright (mother of Dallas Pratt); the fine Solton and Julia Engel Collection of English literature, and the beautiful George and Helen Macy Collection of the Limited Edition Club publications.

There have been impressive gifts from professors who have loved Columbia: the vastly important papers of Allan Nevins, John Erskine, and Mark Van Doren—and others.

And publishers' archives: Daniel Longwell of Doubleday and of Time-Life, those of W. W. Norton and Company, and of Random House.

Also rich resources in special subjects—to mention a few: the choice Arthur Rackham Collection given by Alfred and Madeleine Berol, and the Masefield, Spinoza, and Santayana Collections presented by Corliss Lamont.

We have certainly moved forward in our Phoenix-phase. Historically, the second founding places us with the hundreds of other Friends groups organized in the fifties, but our original founding places us very high on the list. If the Harvard Friends had failed—and they very nearly did in the 1930's—Kenneth Lohf would have been right. As it is, we were the *second* Library Friends organization established in America, a considerable distinction in itself and perhaps a salutary position, for, as popularly said, it means that we have to TRY HARDER!

NUMBER I



APRIL 1933

BIBLIOTHECA COLUMBIANA

PUBLISHED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE FRIENDS
OF THE LIBRARY OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



THE association known as "Friends of the Library of Columbia University" was founded at a luncheon given by Mr. George A. Plimpton on November 8, 1928, to a group of persons interested in the Library of Columbia University, with the object of bringing together in a simple organization and without publicity the many friends who had already given generously of their time and money for the enrichment of the Library, and others who as opportunity offered would be glad to take an interest in the Library, as a whole or in the libraries of any of the affiliated schools and colleges.

Members were thus afforded an opportunity to assist in promoting the objects of the organization (1) by influencing those who are disposing of valuable books or collections to give them to the Columbia University libraries, and (2) by giving or securing funds, by assuming sponsorship, or by taking personal responsibility for building up within the University libraries special collections in various fields of interest.

On the other hand, the University Library took upon itself to be of service to members who might have private libraries by furnishing bibliographical assistance or by caring for collections.

Since the association was founded it has been instrumental, through its members, in securing the gift or indefinite loan of four important special libraries, besides being of assistance in the purchase of another. In addition to those noteworthy achievements it has secured the gift of a considerable number of rare books

The first issue of the journal published by the original
Friends group at Columbia.

Newton the Alchemist?

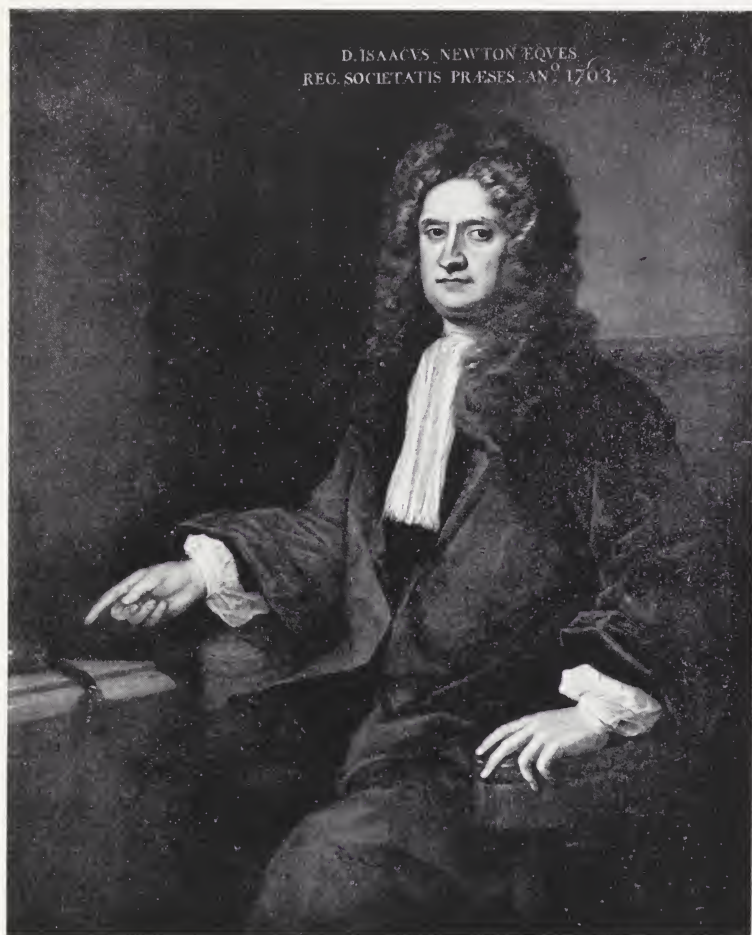
SAMUEL DEVONS

THERE is only one Newton. He is so much a part of modern science that anything he did or wrote or thought—or might have thought—is of absorbing interest alike to the scientist, the historian of science and the specialist in Newtoniana (which the writer is not). The recent acquisition by the Columbia Libraries of an original manuscript by Newton evokes a particular and immediate interest in a subject who never fails to fascinate.

Newton may be unique, but there is no unique Newton. First and foremost there is Newton the great natural-mathematical philosopher, the author of the immortal *Principia* ("Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica"); the founder of classical ("Newtonian") mechanics; the discoverer of the Universal Law of Gravitation; the creator of a complete, rational "System of the World"; the analyzer of the motions of the moon, and the movements of the tides; the investigator of fluids and the interpreter of the speed of sound: the list of achievements embodied in the *Principia* is almost endless. There is also Newton the master geometer who invented calculus; the mechanically gifted Newton who constructed the first reflecting telescope; Newton the great experimenter who first analyzed the nature of white light and color; the Newton of the celebrated "Opticks"; Newton, the member of Parliament; and then the Master of the Mint who reformed and resurrected the debased coinage of England—Newton the public servant of whom Macauley wrote that

The ability, the industry and the strict uprightness of the great philosopher speedily produced a complete revolution throughout the department which was under his charge.

And withal there were other Newtons, more private, personal



SIR ISAAC NEWTON

Portrait by Charles Jervas. (Royal Society, London)

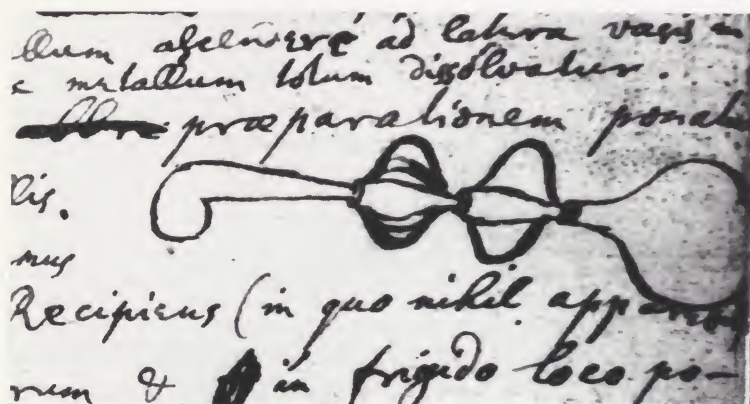
ones: Newton the theologian, the mystic—or in Lord Keynes's phrase, "the last of the magicians." And throughout his life there was always Newton the alchemist or "chymist"—a distinction on which it would not have been possible to put too fine a point in his own preoccupations or his lifetime. It is a glimpse of "Newton the alchemist" that we see in the newly acquired manuscript.

Only recently has it become clear what immense time and energy, pondering, writing and experimenting Newton devoted throughout his entire life to chemistry, alchemy, and allied problems of metallurgy. During his lifetime, and for some two hundred years afterwards, scarcely anything of Newton's work on chemistry or alchemy was published. His deep interest in the fundamental problems of chemical composition and change—part of his search for an understanding of the nature of matter and the forces between the basic "elementary" bits of which matter is formed—is clearly revealed in the famous series of "Queries" which form the final section of the "Opticks" (1704, 1717). There have also been published from time to time brief notes (*De Natura Acidorum*, 1704), and extracts of correspondence on chemical topics with Newton's contemporaries Robert Boyle and John Locke. But for the most part Newton's chemistry remained part of his private life.

Not surprisingly, then, this whole aspect of Newton has been until recently the subject of more speculation than scholarship. As if to preserve his image as the noblest natural philosopher of all time, his contamination by alchemical doctrines and practices has itself seemingly been hushed in some mystery. But now that history is gradually transforming Newton the Man into Newton the Myth, historians are increasingly busying themselves with analyzing the myth. And an immense amount of material is at hand.

When Newton left Trinity College and the Lucasian Professorship of Mathematics at Cambridge to become Warden (and later Master) of the Mint in 1696, he apparently gathered together in

a large chest a great mass of manuscripts and books. All the problems and questions which had stirred and vexed his mind for thirty years or more were sealed up. Documents containing upwards of one million words in Newton's own hand—a sizeable proportion



A drawing by Newton in the Latin part of the manuscript.

concerning alchemy—were locked away in this Pandora's Box which was, possibly, never opened during the remainder of Newton's life. On his death in 1727 it was in the hands of his executor, John Conduitt, who married Newton's step-niece and housekeeper—the celebrated and gifted Catherine Barton. Their only child married (1740) the Hon. John Wallop, who became Lord Lymington when his father was created the first Earl of Portsmouth. The Newton papers remained in the Portsmouth family for some 150 years. They were examined on one or two occasions, notably by Samuel Horsley when he prepared his edition of Newton's works (1779-1785), and by Sir David Brewster when he wrote his celebrated biography of Newton in 1855. But neither of these saw fit to bring much of Newton's alchemical writings into the light of day. Possibly, as Keynes has suggested, they lifted the lid, examined the contents, and were so alarmed by what they discovered that they sealed the chest quickly!

In 1872—Newton had been in peace for 150 years—the then Earl of Portsmouth entrusted the whole collection to Cambridge University. The contents, now somewhat ravaged by time, water and fire, were arranged and cataloged. The parts of more scientific interest were retained in the University Library; the more personal documents—which included the alchemical writings!—were returned to the family (in 1888). These papers did not appear in public again until 1936 when they were “dispersed in the auction room” by Catherine Barton’s descendent, Lord Lymington. Lord Keynes, “disturbed” as he put it “by this impiety, managed to reassemble about half of [these papers]” but “the greater part of the rest were snatched out of my reach by a syndicate, which hoped to sell them at a high price, probably in America.”

Columbia’s new manuscript is one “of the rest.” From the documents in Cambridge and scattered elsewhere, together with Newton’s few but important published writings on chemistry, a much fuller picture of Newton’s alchemical interests and activities now emerges—although its significance and precise delineation are still the subject of discussion and controversy.

That Newton devoted an immense amount of time, energy, and considerable money to alchemical studies and researches is now clear beyond doubt. There had long been some evidence for this, notably a letter written by a kinsman, Humphrey Newton, who acted as Newton’s assistant and amanuensis from 1683–1689. In part it reads:

About six weeks at spring, and six at ye fall, ye fire in the laboratory scarcely went out, which was well furnished with chymical materials as bodyes, receivers, heads, crucibles, etc., which was made very little use of, ye crucibles excepted, in which he fused his metals; he would sometimes, tho’ very seldom, look into an old mouldy book w^{ch} lay in his laboratory. I think it was titled *Agricola de Metallis*, the transmuting of metals being his chief design, for which purpose antimony was a great ingredient. Near his laboratory was his garden. . . .

Also, an early letter of advice written in 1669 to a young friend,

Francis Aston, about to travel abroad, clearly reveals Newton's early chemical interests. For example:

Observe the products of nature in several places, especially in mines, with the circumstances of mining and of extracting metals or minerals out of their oare, and of refining them: and if you meet with any transmutations out of their own species into another (as out of iron into copper, out of any metall into quicksilver, out of one salt into another, or into an insipid body, etc.) those, above all, will be worth your noting, being the most luciferous, and many times luciferous experiments too in Philosophy.

. . . There is in Holland one ————— Borry, who some years since was imprisoned by the Pope, to have extorted from him secrets (as I am told) of great worth, both as to medicine and profit, but he escaped into Holland, where they have granted him a guard. I think he usually goes cloathed in green. Pray inquire what you can of him, and whether his ingenuity be any profit to the Dutch.

We knew also of his correspondence with John Locke about some secretive processes for "multiplying gold" in which Boyle was involved—and which led to an Act of Parliament prohibiting the process (1692).

A more practical involvement with metallurgy had resulted from Newton's earlier concern with suitable materials for constructing his reflecting telescope.

From the numerous "private" manuscripts which are now made "public," we see that Newton borrowed, bought, read, copied, and annotated many of the continental works on alchemy available in his day. In fact many of the alchemical documents are, apparently, simple transcriptions of the work of others. Newton's purpose in all this is open to interpretation. His extremely perceptive remarks in "Opticks" show that he unquestionably had a deep feeling for the basic scientific-philosophical questions which chemistry posed. Chemistry and alchemy were not then such alien occupations as may appear today. The objectives of alchemy—its

transmutation of gold, philosopher's stone, elixirs, etc., were of some validity, even if the methods and motives of most of those who pursued them were questionable. Notwithstanding the exotic language (much of it probably having a definite, personally assigned, connotation for Newton), "all his unpublished work . . . is marked by careful learning, accurate method, extreme sobriety of statement."

Perhaps Newton was unconcerned with the appeal of the alchemist Snyders (on whose theories he is commenting in our newly acquired manuscript) that, with an understanding of the mysterious fires "nothing but God can hinder us from obtaining health and riches." But a fascination with the enigmas posed by God's handiwork as revealed in Nature—and who could say that alchemy did not reveal these also?—was one that dominated his whole life.

When Newton became Master of the Mint, and when the chest of papers was safely closed up, his detailed knowledge of chemistry no doubt served him well. But it might be ingenuous to suggest, as it has been, that "perhaps, too, his unsatisfied desires for alchemy found a convenient opportunity for application in the congenial surroundings of the Royal Mint."

For the celebrated Sir Isaac Newton, now a great public servant, an ornament of London society, a supreme figure in the world of science, enjoying good health and ample income, it would hardly do for it to be bruited around that the Master of the Mint was still trying—alchemically—to multiply gold! Newton's interest in alchemy was, in all likelihood, as little advertised in the last 30 years of his life, as in the 200 years afterwards. And despite the massive documentation now at hand, it is still somewhat bewildering. As an alchemist, Newton was no more successful than the rest of them; our surprise, as Samuel Johnson might have said, is not that he did it no better, but that he did it at all.

The Three Mysterious Fires: Commentary on Monte-Snyders's Alchemy

SIR ISAAC NEWTON

The text below is the English-language part of the three-page handwritten commentary presented to the Columbia Libraries by the Friends at the latter's 20th Anniversary meeting (the rest of the text was in Latin.)

The spelling of the words has been modernized to aid readability. Also the chemical symbols for antimony, mercury, and sulphur have been replaced by the names of the metals, in brackets. EDITOR'S NOTE

THE first thing which must be understood are the three mysterious fires. The first ought to render metal fusible and this without any enigma is the regulus¹ of antimony. The other ought to sympathise with the metallic fire, and although Snyders's² does declare that it is double yet he will consider it as one, though they have a contrary nature in their qualities. But it is enough for him that they perform the same effect in his design. He calls it a sympathetic burning Hermaphroditic fire. He says that sulphur and niter are two violent fires but yet, if one knows how to reconcile them nothing but God can hinder us from obtaining health and riches and that it is the only thing which he had reserved to himself and to those whom God has elected to it. He does not dissemble, for the truth is that [sulphur] and niter are the two contrary fires which being united are able to penetrate any metal whatsoever, to incend its soul and to extract it, being joined

¹ The regulus is the metallic mass which sinks when slag is being treated.

² Johann de Monte-Snyders. *Tractatus de Medicina Universali, das ist . . . iedis Metall in Materiam primam bringen kan, auch wie dadurch das fixe unzerstorliche Gold ein warhafftes Aurum Potabile zu bringen*. . . . Frankfurt, 1678.

with the cold metallic fire which he calls the soul of Saturn³ and which does amalgam it with all metals, and suffers itself to be calcined in the fire with the help of the double igneous element. Now that cold fire is regulus of [antimony] [i.e. the same with the first fire]. He says one must begin where nature has ended and by that igneous magical element composed of two infernal and contrary matters calcine the otherwise inexpugnable doors of the fortress of Sol.³ By that and in all the extent of his book he denotes that you must use gold, and join to it the soul of Saturn, which ought to be taken from the mineral and unmelted Saturn because it does not burn as common [mercury] but has a terrestrial and dry quality by which it is able to defend the sulphur of Sol lest it be burned and fly away with its mercury. Gold being amalgamed with the mercury of Saturn becomes porous and then the infernal fire can sooner and better calcine the strong body and reduce it into ashes. From whence is drawn by the clear dew of heaven the sulphur and from the remaining body is drawn by a lixivium⁴ after a due reverberation the most precious medicinal salt which the sages have said to be the Phers stone.⁵ He advertises that the separation of the [sulphur] from the salt can be made in a little while with an open fire: But that you must take care lest the fire of the metals be burnt, and that you must for that purpose have a guardian or keeper which may hinder it. That he has named that guardian. It is tartar which he declares to be much favourable to metals and to have a great affinity with them.

To reduce then regularly all metals and minerals unto the first matter since it is the ground of all radical mineral and metallic destruction. That reduction is made when you incorporate the mineral stars to the philosophical heaven. This [heaven] is regulus of [antimony] joined with gold and all the other metals. After

³ In alchemy, Sol is gold. Saturn is lead.

⁴ Lixivium: a solution of alkaline salts, as lye.

⁵ He presumably means "philosopher's stone," a material then believed to be in all substances. The material was deemed to be able to change iron and lead into gold and silver, to be able to heal disease, and to bring eternal life.

which the sympathetic fire can easily leave its members. That sympathetic fire is a part of the magical elements for it is composed of an aerial salt of an oleaginous substance and of a vegetable earth.



THE ALCHEMIST

A portrayal by David Teniers, the Younger (1610–90).
Royal Gallery in the Hague.

By the composition of those three you may by a dry way open the internal parts of all metallic bodies in order to draw the soul and afterwards the salt. In hard metals you must have more of that infernal thunderbolt than in others. In a little time you may destroy a great quantity of Sol. To do that take eight parts of your aerial salt which is niter, of your dry oleaginous substance which is sulphur, four parts, of your vegetable earth which is tartar, two parts. Reduce the whole into an impalpable powder and mix it with care. After which melt one part of pure gold and when it is thoroughly hot throw upon it three parts of your first magical fire (which is your regulus of [antimony].) Leave it in the fire till a

pellicle or thin skin appears then throw it into a cone. After which make it to melt again in a very violent heat. Throw in some of your composition of infernal thunderbolt till all your gold and regulus be consumed into a precious scoria.⁶ You must then grind them warm and if there was a part of your regulus not consumed, you must add some fresh regulus and begin again to fulminate. Put them into very clear water till all be dissolved. Filtrate the whole. There will pass a very clear water. Put it apart and that is the drink of which Mars⁷ cannot drink and into which throwing some vinegar of white wine he saw that out of water fire did come, and yet the water was immediately changed and became a thick essence of a deep red. Then he said, O Venus, my lovely Venus, thy beauty belongs to none other but me. There will remain some feces in the filter which you must well wash and even cause to boil that there may remain none of the salts; and throw again some vinegar till nothing more will precipitate, and the fires that remain after you have well dried and ground them, you must reverberate with half as much flowers of [sulphur]: after which the salt may be easily extracted even with the spirit of vinegar. It is better to do it with the mercurial spirit. The sulphur of metals is wholly combustible when separated from its salt.

⁶ Slag.

⁷ In alchemy, Mars is iron.

Tooled in Blind and Gold; Some British Bindings at Columbia

ALICE H. BONNELL

Other examples of fine bookbinding in the Columbia Libraries have been the subject of earlier articles in our journal—French bindings in the November 1954 issue, pp. 19–27, and early American ones in the February 1963 issue, pp. 23–31. Now the focus is on some of the British ones.

EDITOR'S NOTE

ALTHOUGH books in various forms have a history of nearly five thousand years, the book as we know it today began its development less than two thousand years ago when the continuous roll of parchment or papyrus was gradually replaced by the codex. This book of leaves required covers for protection, the smooth surface of which invited ornament. Metal-work, painting and cloth were variously used to cover the boards, but, at an early date, leather was found to be the most satisfactory material. Thus it is that the history of decorative bookbinding is, in large measure, the history of the working of leather.

The exact origins of this craft are not entirely known, but indications seem to point to Egypt as the place where leather was first worked and decorated as an art. The skill of the Egyptian and Coptic craftsmen was carried by the Moslems to southern Europe, whence it spread over the continent. With the introduction of finer leather (morocco) and the art of gold tooling (also thought to have originated in Morocco), the craft of fine bookbinding reached great heights.

The earliest known leather binding of English workmanship to survive is considered to be of the 9th or 10th century,¹ although

¹ Hobson, G. D., *English Binding before 1500*. Cambridge University Press, 1929, p. 1.

use of leather was rare in any country before 1000 A.D. Red goat-skin over thin boards was employed on this binding, decorated with knife or graver in a stylized design. The 12th and 13th centuries developed a style of binding decoration dubbed by G. D. Hobson "Romanesque."² About 21 examples of this style have been identified as of English origin, mainly from Winchester, London, and Canterbury. The bindings are executed with individual metal stamps, often arranged in circles, displaying religious subjects side by side with classical pagan figures. A characteristic of this period, though not confined to it, is the use of differing designs for the boards of a single volume.

There appears to be something of a hiatus in the succession of ornamental leather bookbindings that can be dated clearly for the years between the late 13th century and about 1400 A.D. These years roughly coincide with the period in which people began to acquire books for their own use, and the bindings of Prayer-books, Books of Hours, etc., were often of silks, brocades, and velvets—more suited to secular luxury than the pigskin or leather of the library or monastery altar. Those perishable cloth coverings for manuscript books were replaced almost entirely two centuries later with leather or vellum bindings. By then the manuscripts (often illuminated) were recognized as having antiquarian value and as needing leather bindings for preservation and decorative purposes.

Blind tooling predominates in the work of the 15th century, with many books fitted also with metal bosses of beautifully wrought silver or brass filigree. Up to this time bookbinding had been mainly the work of monastery craftsmen, but with the rise of the 15th century presses bookbinding became a secular occupation also. The normal method of ornamenting a leather book cover had been by means of repeated impressions of a number of small metal stamps, variously arranged. The vast increase in book production toward the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th

² *Ibid.*

centuries gave rise to new methods of accelerating the work of the binder. Two devices to decrease this tedious labor were the panel-stamp, a large design covering all or most of the board, and the roll, which combined several stamps on a cylinder which were repeated across the cover in various directions and combinations.

Shortly after 1500 two Dutch stationers and bookbinders crossed the channel and settled in Cambridge within a few years of each other. Garret Godfrey (1502) and Nicholas Spierinck (1505) are among the earliest and finest users of the panel-stamp and roll for the decoration of book covers. Each of these two binders had his own rolls, but similarities seem to point to their having been made by the same cutter. Plate Ia shows the Columbia binding by Garret Godfrey, made by his rolls I and III, and impressed with the figures of a lion, a gryphon, a wyvern, the crowned rose of the Tudors and with Godfrey's initials "GG". A number of the early Cambridge bindings are remarkable for the curious red color of the leather used. It has the appearance of having been painted over with red and the red rubbed off—a peculiarity in the process of tanning and dressing the leather.³ Our binding shows this reddish tinge.

The art of gold tooling was introduced in England in the first half of the 16th century, probably first used by Thomas Berthelet (fl. 1529-1556), printer and stationer to Henry VIII and Edward VI. Many of the bindings from his workshop were gilded on white leather or vellum and the designs drawn wholly in imitation of Venetian gilders. In the succeeding half century, English binding gradually took on design more in the English spirit, but, with some notable exceptions, it was generally of more historical interest than artistic.

There seems to be a sharp break in the character of English decorative bindings about the middle of the 17th century. Up to those years, uninspired designs and indifferent execution con-

³ Gray, *Early Cambridge Stationers and Bookbinders*. Oxford University Press, 1904, p. 26.

trasted sadly with the magnificent French binding of the 16th and 17th centuries. Then, about the time of the accession of Charles II to the throne of England (1660), there began a period of production of gold tooled bindings of fine character and design. The roll tool for a lacy border design came into use, and small tooles had little dotted elements mingled with solid curved lines, or were completely rendered in dotted outline—*pointillé*. These tools which were, in fact, imported from France, made possible a new lightness and naturalness in design. Plate Ib shows a binding from the workshop of Samuel Mearne, bookbinder to Charles II, employing a combination of tools in an all-over pattern of tulips, acorns and the so-called “drawer-handle” stamps, named because of their resemblance to the brass handles found on writing-desks of the period. The 17th century is also characterized by the embroidered binding—a decoration employed widely both by professional bookbinders and amateur craftsmen. Plate II.

Among the English bookbinders of the 18th century, Roger Payne (1739-1797) stands out preeminently as the most accomplished and influential of his time. Payne, who conducted his binding operations in his home assisted by his wife, developed several characteristics in binding that serve to mark his work. His endpapers are drab in color, many of them hand water-colored; the interior joints at the front and back of the book are of leather, usually dark green. It was he who first made a concerted effort to produce bindings ornamented in harmony with the character of the text. His great taste in choice of ornaments and judicious application of them soon procured him patrons among the noble and wealthy, and if his temperance had matched his talent, his influence might have been greater still. Plate IIIa shows Payne's classic design on a volume of the works of Diogenes Laertes. The tradition of fine binding which Roger Payne revived was continued after his death by certain German binders—Baumgarten, Benedict, Kalthoeber and Staggemeier—who settled in London, and also by Charles Hering and Charles Lewis, his pupil, whose work, elegant

and classical in tone, was, as well, excellently forwarded and finished (plate IIIb). The 18th century in Ireland also produced some exquisitely tooled bindings characterized by inlays of contrasting leather in large diamond shaped centerpieces, gold tooled in leafy sprays and delicate flowers. (Plate IIIc).

In the 18th century there had been scattered instances of binders copying styles of previous eras, but in the 19th century the development of antiquarian enthusiasm among book collectors engendered a response from the bookbinders—the so-called “Retrospective binders”—that resulted in wide-spread copying of earlier styles. The idea behind this retrospection was to make the binding fit the book with respect to the period in time of its contents; this stirred up interest in bookbinding styles of previous centuries. This practice is worthy of note because such bindings were executed by some of the eminent binders of the 19th century, who also developed contemporary styles of their own. Robert Riviere (1808–1882), descendent of a French bookbinding family, was chief exponent of the historical style in England, and produced, among others, a number of bindings in imitation of the 17th century Scottish “wheel” bindings, while Derome, French 18th century master-binder, found his champion in Charles Hering (fl. 1790–1815), successor to Roger Payne. (Plates IVa and b)

The devotion to the reproduction of the designs of the past brought an inevitable reaction in the late 19th century. This was partly tied to the revival of fine printing and luxurious illustration in England manifest in the Arts and Crafts Movement led by William Morris. From this movement came T. J. Cobden-Sanderson who, in middle life, left the profession of barrister for that of bookbinder, under the influence of the William Morris Group and their concern for the spiritual value of craftsmanship. He established his own bindery, designed his own tools and did all of the forwarding and finishing himself. He used a few simple tools arranged in a geometrical plan of equal simplicity, the figured tools being copied from natural forms. He was a man with fresh

ideas, the preeminent figure in modern English bookbinding, who is credited with being the individual who turned the craft from the unimaginative production of imitative work and gave it the impetus of fresh design and new ideals of craftsmanship. In 1893 Cobden-Sanderson ceased his personal execution of bindings to establish the Doves Bindery where he continued to design and supervise the execution of its work. Our example (plate Va) shows a binding of dark green morocco, gold tooled in a *semé* of leaves and flowers within a double fillet. Cobden-Sanderson's close associate, Douglas Cockerell, entered the Doves Bindery in 1893 and there absorbed the ideals of the William Morris group. Typical of his work is a little volume bound in white sealskin, gold tooled and inlaid in red and green leather (plate Vb). It is remarkable that the chief characteristic of the work of these two binders is the one which is hardest to discover in the work of the 16th and 17th centuries—a trait of personality, a sense of individual distinction from binding to binding.

In twentieth century British bookbinding such names as Bernard Middleton, Edgar Mansfield, and C. Philip Smith represent contemporary trends and forecast binding styles of the future. The Columbia Libraries have few examples of the work of contemporary British binders and no outstanding ones—a gap which hopefully may be filled by the generosity of some of the Libraries' Friends.



PLATE Ia. Binding by Garret Godfrey. The binding is for Orbellis's
Sententias, 1503. (Seligman Collection)

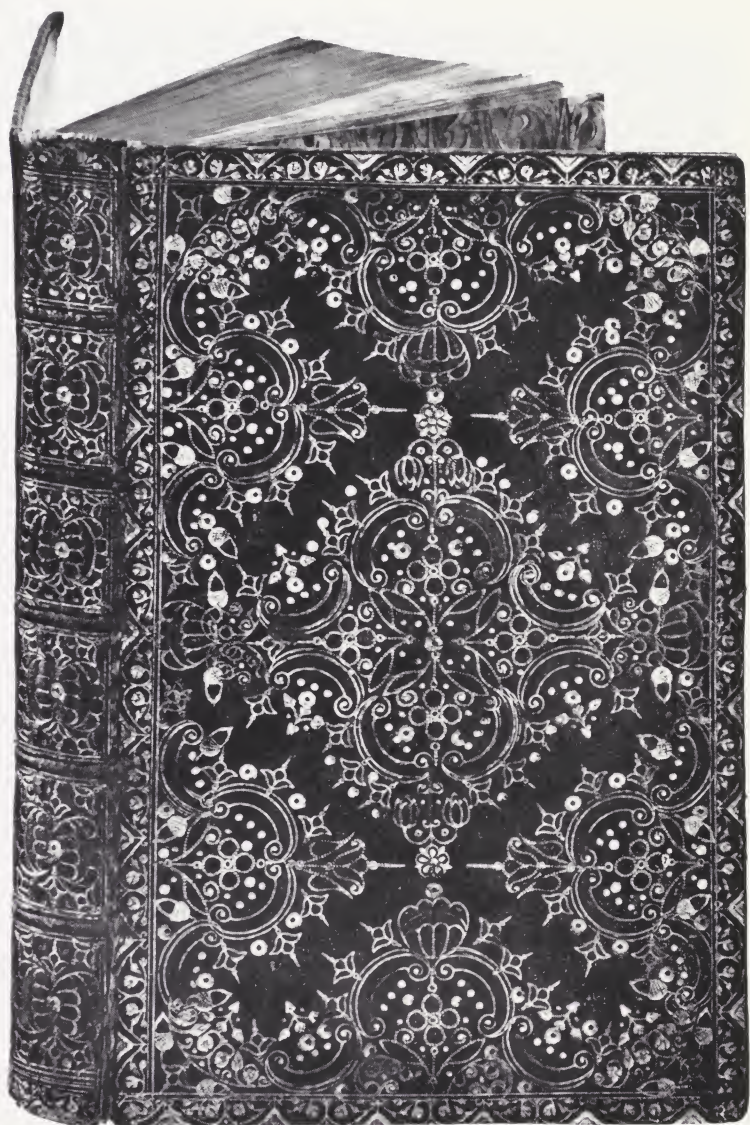


PLATE Ib. A Restoration binding from the bindery of Samuel Mearne on Samuel Herne's *Domus Carthusiana* . . . London, 1677.



PLATE II. A 17th-century embroidered binding for *The Holy Bible*.
London, Robert Barker, 1614.

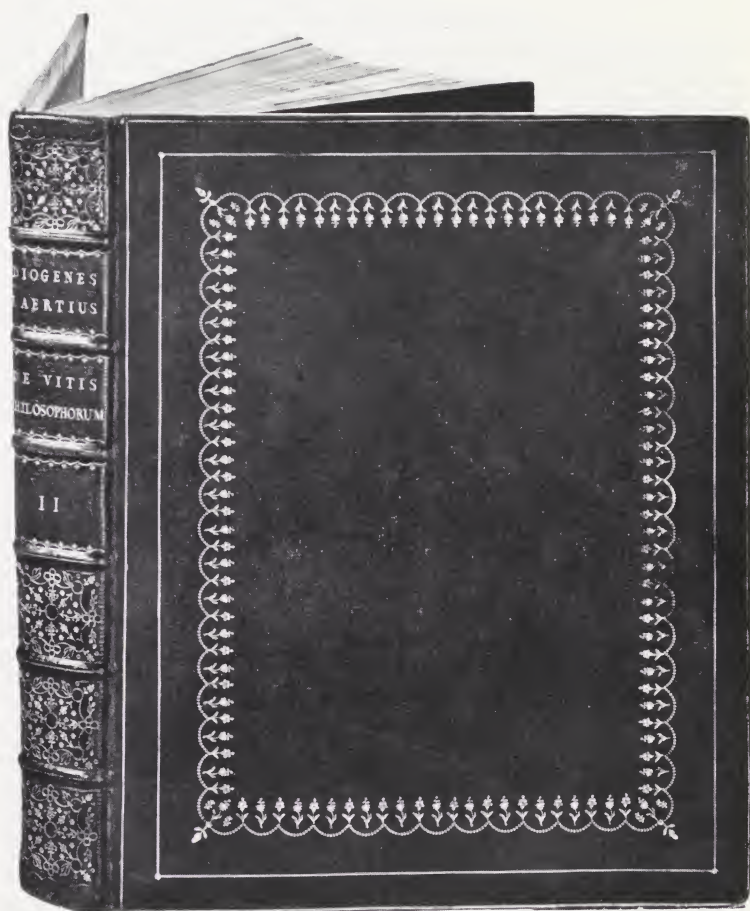


PLATE IIIa. A classic design by Roger Payne for Diogenes Laertius's
De Vitis Philosophorum, vol. II, 1692.



PLATE IIIb. Charles Lewis, a pupil of Roger Payne's, executed this classical binding for Joseph Hall's *Satires* (1824).

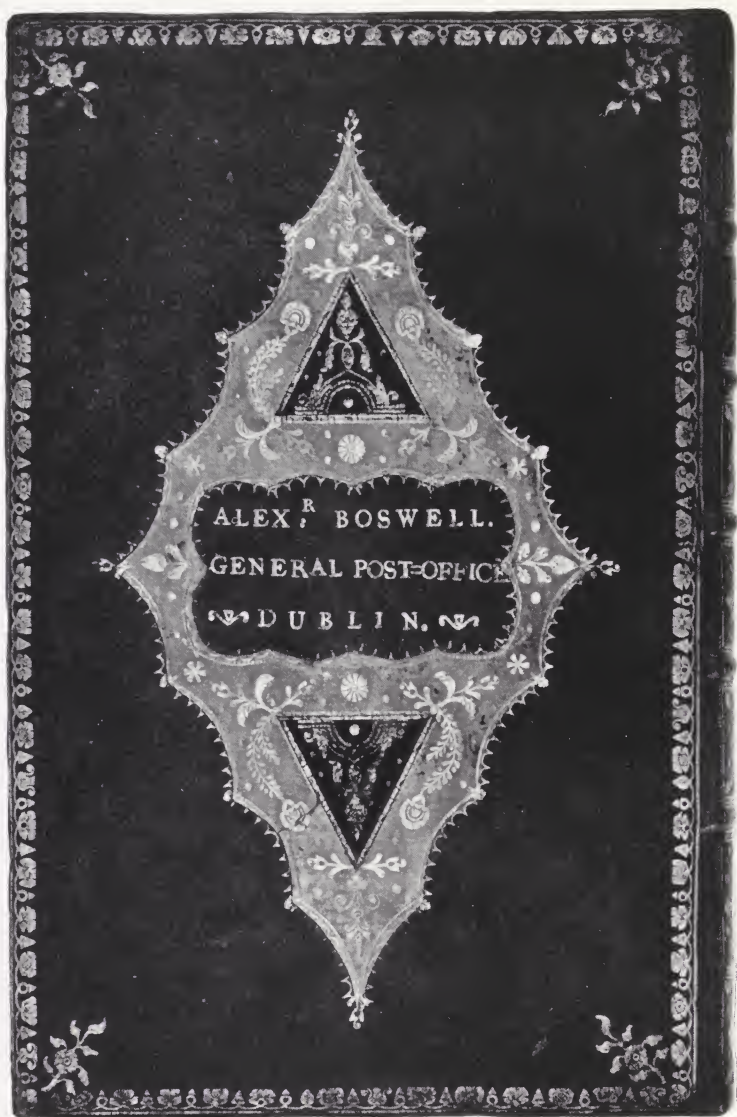


PLATE IIIc. An Irish binding showing inlays of different colored leather for *The Charter Party: or, Articles of Agreement of the Prudent Annuity Company of Dublin* (1774).



PLATE IVa. This "Retrospective binding" was designed by Charles Hering for Oliver Goldsmith's *The Bee* (1759).

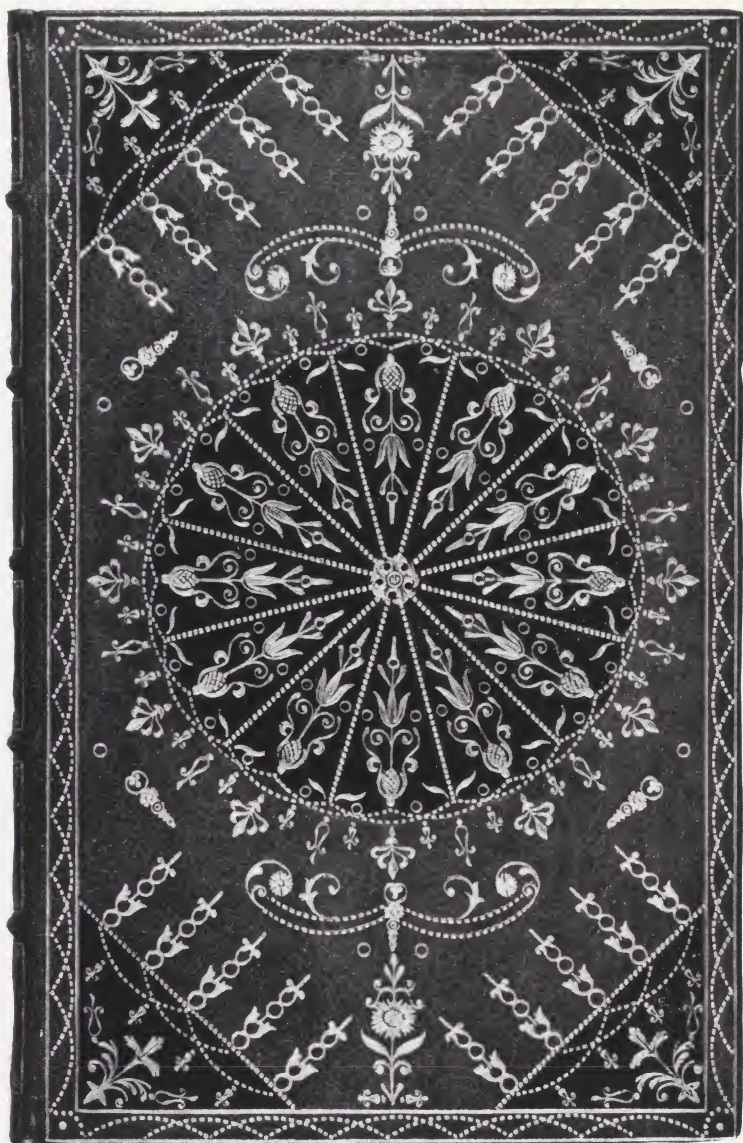


PLATE IVb. A Scottish wheel binding in the Retrospective style,
designed by Robert Riviere for a copy of John Saltmarsh's
Poemata sacra published in 1636.

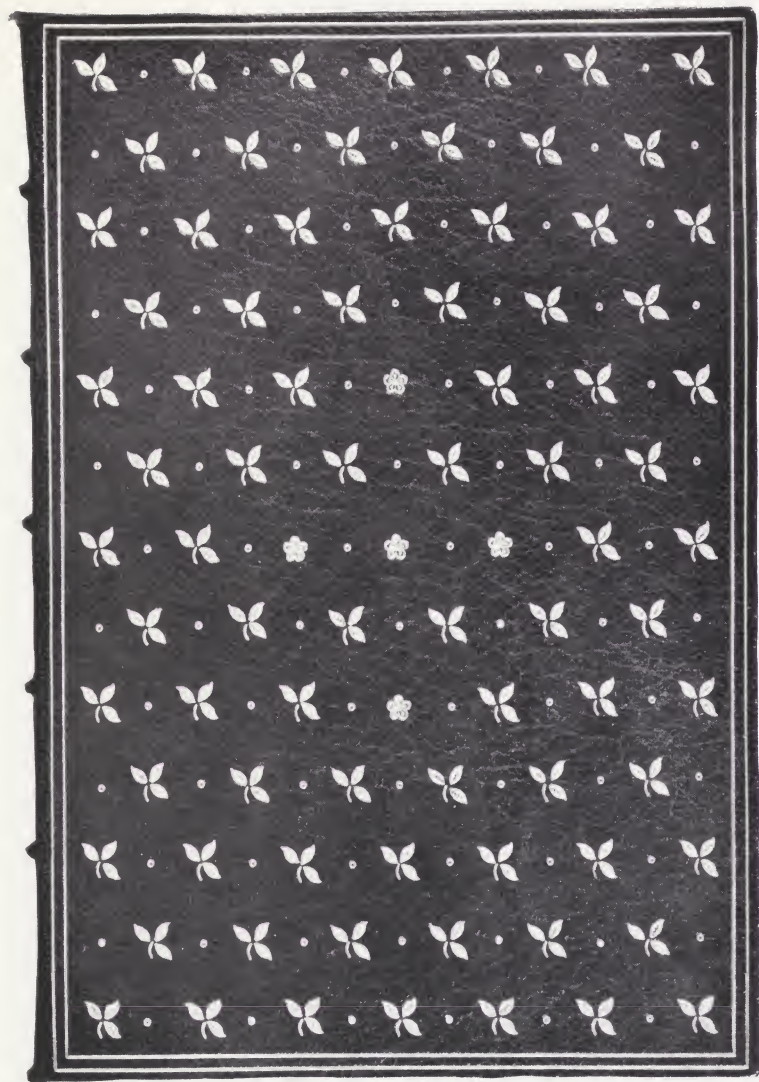


PLATE Va. A 1915 Cobden-Sanderson binding for John Ruskin's
Letter to Young Girls (1876).



PLATE Vb. This white sealskin binding, with flowers of colored leather inlays, was designed in 1904 by Douglas Cockerell for George Meredith's *Modern Loves . . .* (1862).

Our Growing Collections

KENNETH A. LOHF

Gifts

A.A.U.P. gift. The Association of American University Presses has selected Columbia as one of the six university libraries to receive the award books which are selected for inclusion in the annual A.A.U.P. Book Shows. The initial gift includes the exhibits for the first five years, 1965 through 1969. Each annual selection has twenty-five titles published by university presses and selected by a jury of distinguished book designers, typographers, and graphic artists, on the basis of their creative design and bookmaking techniques in composition, printing, and binding. The Libraries already have a complete file of the American Institute of Graphic Arts "Fifty Books of the Year" awards, and the gift of the A.A.U.P. adds another major resource for the student of publishing and book design.

A.I.G.A. gift. The American Institute of Graphic Arts has added the Fifty Books of the Year, 1970, to the complete file of the award winners in the Libraries.

Baer-Cooper gift. Messrs. Albert M. Baer and George V. Cooper (A.B., 1917), and an anonymous donor, have presented an important group of letters by the contemporary Japanese novelist Yukio Mishima, who committed ritual suicide in Tokyo last November at the age of forty-five. He was undoubtedly the best-known writer in his own country and the Japanese author most widely published abroad. The four autograph letters, written in English, and one cablegram, were sent in 1961 and 1962 to Mr. Herbert Machiz, who directed Mishima's plays at the Players Theatre in New York. They are exceptionally fine letters in which the Japanese writer discusses his play *Tropical Tree*, Nô drama, Tennessee

Williams, American actors, Rio de Janeiro, and the translation of his works into English.

Brand gift. For inclusion in the collection of his papers Mr. Millen Brand (A.B., 1929) has added his correspondence files and journals for 1970.

Brown gift. Mr. Andreas Brown has presented a fine letter written by John Jay, grandson of the American Revolutionary statesman, to General Adam Badeau on March 16, 1869.

Bry gift. The American artist Edith Bry (Mrs. Maurice Benjamin) has presented a group of eight crayon drawings of literary persons, including portraits of Irwin Edman, Carl Van Doren, Bata Labagola, Edith Fitzgerald, Lyle Saxon, Marjorie Fisher, Trader Horn, and Rebecca West. Drawn from life, the portraits were executed in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Carman gift. From the collection of her late husband, Dean Harry James Carman (Ph.D., 1919), Dean of Columbia College from 1943 to 1950, Mrs. Carman has presented a group of letters and documents centering around John Van Schaick Lansing Pruyn, a prominent mid-nineteenth century New York lawyer and politician, and other individuals who



REBECCA WEST

Crayon drawing by Elizabeth Bry.
(Bry gift)

were involved in an important case brought before the Supreme Court in 1864 to determine the rights of organizations to bridge navigable streams. Pruyn argued the case successfully for the Hudson River Bridge Company, for which he was counsel. The

manuscripts in the gift document his activities on behalf of the Company and include his correspondence with William H. Seward, James Moore Wayne, S. L. Fairchild, and others. Mrs. Carman has also given a copy of the U.S. Department of State *Papers Relating to Foreign Affairs, 1861*, Washington, 1962, inscribed by Seward to Captain Alexander H. Schultze.

Class of 1923 gift. During the past decade the Columbia College Class of 1923 has made a series of important gifts to the Libraries, among which were an Elizabethan manuscript of Aesop's *Fables* by Arthur Golding, several seventeenth century works by Francis Bacon, and a fine copy of the first edition in the original boards, uncut, of James Boswell's *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides with Samuel Johnson*. To this impressive group the Class has now added an unpublished manuscript by Thomas Carlyle, entitled "What a lie is." Closely written on three sheets, the manuscript, along with a typewritten transcription, are encased in a handsome full-morocco binding by Sangorski and Sutcliffe of London.

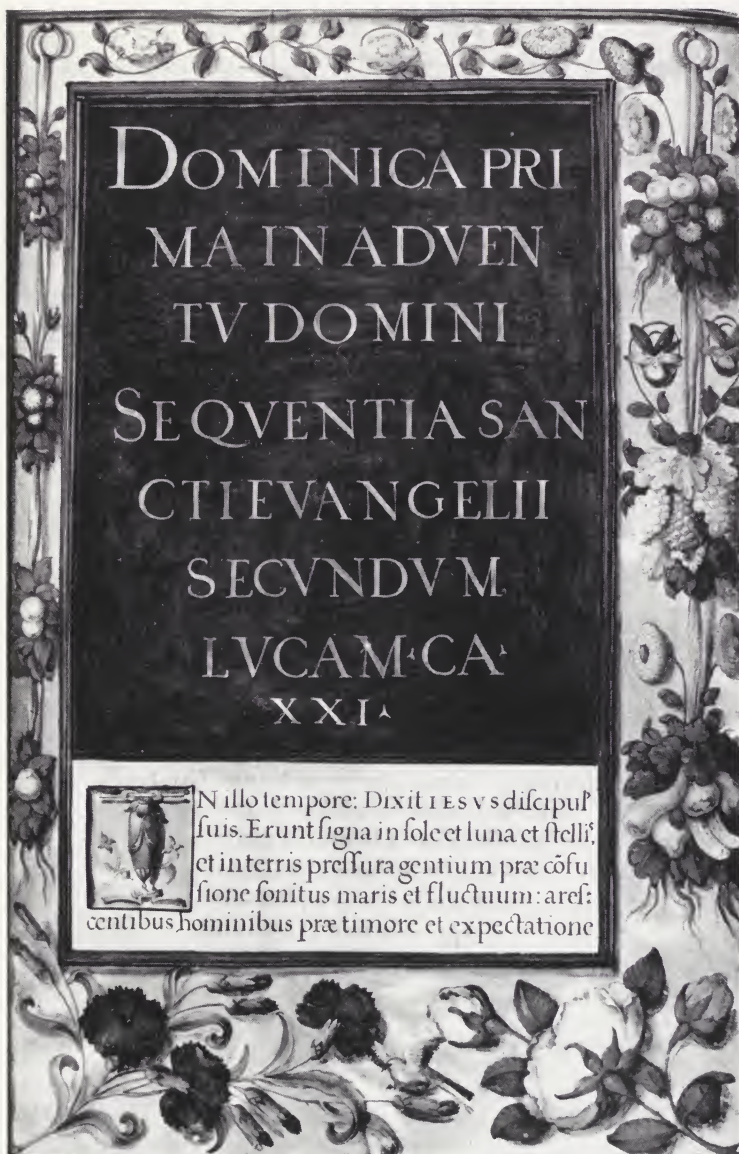
Clifford gift. Professor James L. Clifford has given a group of first and fine editions of eighteenth century literary works. Of special interest is the first edition of Joseph Strutt's *Queenhoo-Hall*, in four volumes, Edinburgh, 1808. Strutt, a notable engraver and antiquarian, died in 1802, leaving an unfinished romance dealing with the people of England in the fifteenth century, and named for an ancient manor-house, "Queenhoo Hall," at Tewin, near Bromfield. The novel was placed in the hands of Sir Walter Scott, who added a final chapter. What is of considerable importance to literary history is the fact that Scott's association with this particular novel largely suggested to him the publication of his own *Waverley*.

Coggeshall gift. In 1955 we received as a gift from Frances Perkins her office and professional files for the period when she served as Secretary of Labor. Her daughter, Mrs. Susanna W. Coggeshall,

has now presented the first installment of a collection of her mother's personal papers. Contained in the gift are lecture notes, address books, financial records, newspaper clippings and magazine articles, miscellaneous manuscript notes, and more than 1,600 letters of a personal nature which she received throughout her career.

Crawford gift. Mr. John M. Crawford, Jr., has presented a superb example of Spanish calligraphy and decoration of the sixteenth century, a manuscript Evangeliary (or Gospel Lectionary) in Latin on ninety-nine vellum leaves, written in a beautiful humanistic hand. It was probably executed in Barcelona, between 1577 and 1588, and, although it is unsigned, the Evangeliary was certainly executed by a master calligrapher for some important personage. The Roman letters are in black and red throughout, and the initial letters are splendidly decorated in gold and colors, several of them showing faces and figures. The first eight lines on the opening leaf are written in large letters in gold on a crimson ground, ornamented with a full border of flowers and fruit painted in colors on a gold background. Apart from the Roman letters employed in the body of the manuscript, the cursive hand used for the index and chapter headings is especially interesting. The handsome Baroque decoration and the classic humanistic hand make this manuscript a most meaningful addition to our holdings in calligraphy.

Cremin gift. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cremin have presented two distinguished manuscripts. The first of these is a manuscript bull from Pope Leo X granting special privileges to the Abbey of St. Bertin in the Diocese of Worms in return for twelve thousand ducats. Written on vellum, the manuscript is dated February 5, 1519, and the leaden seal, though no longer around the bull, has its original red and yellow cord attached. This and other papal bulls issued by Leo X are important in the history of the Reformation, for a year after this was written another bull from Leo to Martin Luther was burned, marking the beginning of Protestantism.



SPANISH EVANGELIARY (16TH CENTURY)

Shown above is the first page, with lettering in gold
on a crimson background. (Crawford gift)

The second manuscript presented is a seventeenth century deed signed by Richard Nicolls, the British Governor of New York, dated February 26, 1666, two years after the English seized control of the Colony from the Dutch. The deed, for a plot of land in lower New York on Stone Street, confirms the property rights of Oloff Stevenszen van Cortlandt (1600-1684) held under the Dutch as of 1645. Van Cortlandt, a prosperous merchant and business man, was rated as the fourth richest person in the Colony during the last ten years of his life. During the period of Dutch rule he held the offices of city treasurer and burgomaster (mayor) during various terms. Two memorials attest to his opulence and sagacity: Van Cortlandt Manor, near Croton, built by his son Stephanus, and Van Cortlandt Park, at the northern extremity of New York City, a symbol of the wealth in real estate amassed by him and by his son Jacobus. Accompanying the deed is a Dutch document, dated July 6, 1650, relating to the same property.

Dalton gift. Mr. Jack Dalton, who was Dean of the School of Library Service from 1959 to 1970, has established a collection of his professional papers. Numbering more than twelve thousand items, the gift documents his activities in American and international librarianship, including the American Library Association's International Relation Committee, the Dewey Decimal Classification and the Forest Press, the Council of National Library Associations, the International Federation of Library Associations, the Franklin Book Programs, the National Book Committee, and *Who's Who in Library Service*.

Dupee-Stade gift. Professors Frederick W. Dupee and George Stade (A.M., 1958, Ph.D., 1965) have presented a collection of ninety-seven letters written to them in connection with their work as editors of *The Selected Letters of E. E. Cummings*, published in 1969. There are letters from numerous writers who knew and worked with the poet, including Kenneth Burke, Malcolm Cow-

ley, Mrs. Marion Cummings, John Dos Passos, Max Eastman, Marianne Moore, and Allen Tate.

Lenz gift. Dr. Maurice Lenz, Professor Emeritus of Clinical Radiology, has presented to the Medical Library a copy of the first edition of *Traité des Pertes de Sang, avec leur Remède Spécifique Nouvellement Découvert par Adrien Helvetius, accompagné de sa Lettre sur la Nature et la Guérison du Cancer*, 1697. Although the greater portion of the book deals with loss of blood, it is particularly the second part of the book that is of interest, as it describes and illustrates a method of radical excision of the breast in certain types of cancer by a new instrument henceforth known as "Helvetius's tongs."

Dr. Lenz had also given the Library a copy of the 1934 facsimile of Vesalius's *Icones anatomicae*, which was published by the New York Academy of Medicine using the original woodblocks stored at the Library of the University of Munich. These woodblocks had been cut in the lifetime of Vesalius, under his direction, and had been used for the illustrations in his works, among them *De Humani corporis fabrica*, 1543.

Meerkirk gift. Mrs. Ann Meerkirk has presented to the East Asian Library a group of twenty-six Chinese works in 258 volumes, as well as sixty-six volumes of writings in French, German, and other western languages relating to China.

Mitchell gift. For addition to our collection of the papers of the economist Wesley Clair Mitchell and his wife, Lucy Sprague Mitchell, their son, Mr. Arnold Mitchell, has presented more than two thousand of their letters, documents, and manuscripts, including early correspondence between his parents and other members of their families.

O'Brien gift. To the collection of her late husband's papers Mrs. Justin O'Brien has added three letters written in 1964 and 1965 to Professor O'Brien by the French literary critic and writer Marcel Jouhandreau.



12 July 48

MOTHER WITH CHILD

Etching by Professor Andre Racz for Gabriela Mistral's
Poemas de las Madres. (Racz gift)

Parsons gift. Dr. Coleman O. Parsons (A.B., 1928) has added the following scarce literary editions to our collection: George Crabb, *Poems*, London, 1808, in original boards; William Gifford, *The Baviad, and Maeviad*, London, 1800; Allen Cunningham, *Sir Marmaduke Maxwell, A Dramatic Poem*, London, 1822; Pliny the younger, *Letters*, translated by William Melmoth, London, 1748; William Falconer, *The Shipwreck*, London, 1804, a large paper copy, with a presentation inscription from the publisher, William Miller; and a bound volume of eighteenth century plays by Colley Cibber and John Fletcher, ranging in date from 1734 to 1745.

Racz gift. Professor Andre Racz has added a number of significant items to the collection of his papers and art work. The gift includes the manuscript, zinc cut, and artist's proof of his etching of Thomas Merton's poem "Aubade-Harlem." In addition, there is an etching of Federico de Onis, signed and dated 1857, and a number of manuscripts and art works relating to the edition of Gabriela Mistral's *Poemas de las Madres*, Santiago de Chile, 1950, illustrated by Professor Racz. Included among these is a copy of the book specially bound in full calf with a long inscription to him from the poet, and an etching of her, from a life study made in 1954, bound in.

Random House gift. To the collection of its papers, Random House, Inc., has recently added nearly sixty thousand items, including the production files of the Modern Library and the Illustrated Modern Library, 1944-1952, the manuscripts and corrected proofs for the *American College Dictionary*, and the editorial correspondence of Robert L. Bernstein and James H. Silberman. Of particular importance are the large files of letters from Senator J. W. Fulbright, John Knowles, and Herbert Gold, relating to the editing and publication of their books.

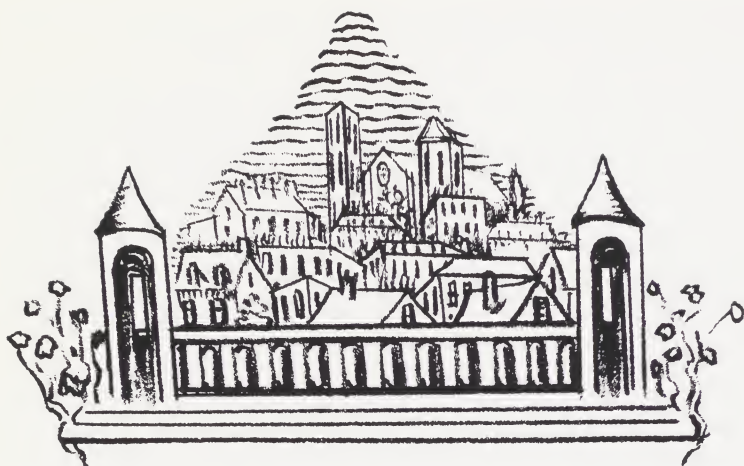
Schneider gift. To the collection of his papers Mr. Isidor Schneider has added the typescripts of more than one hundred reviews

and reports done for various book clubs and publishers, as well as twenty-three volumes of literary works containing contributions by him or inscribed to him by Stanley Hyman, Millen Brand, Louis Grudin, Florence Becker, and other contemporary writers.

Seligman gift. To the collection formed by his late father, Professor Edwin R. A. Seligman, Mr. Eustace Seligman has added a group of fifty-five volumes dealing mainly with French economic history during the late eighteenth century. Of special importance is the rare first edition of duPont de Nemours, *Mémoires sur la Vie et les Ouvrages de M. Turgot, Ministre d'État*, published in Philadelphia in 1782, one of the most important documents in the study of the early years of the reign of Louis XVI.

Sheehy gift. In memory of Rudolph S. Wild, Mr. Eugene P. Sheehy has presented two of the rarest of Gertrude Stein's publications: *Portrait of Mabel Dodge at the Villa Curomia*, published in Florence in 1912, bound in wrappers with a floral design; and *A Village: Are You Ready Yet Not Yet*, a play in four acts published in Paris in 1928, number 75 of one hundred copies signed by the author and the artist Elie Lascaux, who has illustrated the work with seven lithographs. In addition, Mr. Sheehy has added to our collection an autograph letter written by the English novelist Leslie P. Hartley, as well as eleven first editions by Virginia Woolf, Sherwood Anderson, Sinclair Lewis, P. H. Newby, Theodore Roethke, John Lehmann, Thomas Merton, Louis MacNeice, Alan Swallow, and Lawrence Durrell. The work by P. H. Newby, *A Journey to the Interior*, published in London in 1945, is the author's first book, and this copy is signed by him on the fly-leaf.

Smith gift. Dr. and Mrs. Dwight Smith have presented a collection of more than one hundred papers of Carl Remington, personal secretary to Luke E. Wright, the second American Governor-General of the Philippines. Remington's diaries and scrapbooks, and copies of the Governor's speeches and reports, covering the years 1899 to 1905, are included, as well as interesting corres-



First Act,

A village.

Second Act,

A village.

Third Act,

A village.

Fourth Act,

A village.

If you move me and if you move it if you move it and
if you move me.

In the first place, place it, you place it, you place it there,
you place it there.

In the second place they in that place they for that place
they buy that place.

GERTRUDE STEIN'S "A VILLAGE" . . . (1928)

The opening page of the play, showing one of the lithographs by
Elie Lascaux. (Sheehy gift)

pondence pertaining to the arrival of Russian warships in Manila harbor in June 1905 after the Battle of Tsushima Straits.

Wolfe gift. Mrs. Robert J. Wolfe has given a collection of papers and books relating to her father, the late Louis Robert Trilling. The papers, comprising notes, bibliographies, and transcripts of letters, pertain to an unfinished biography of Charles Dudley Warner, on which Mr. Trilling worked for a number of years. Most important among the printed works is the fine copy of James Monroe's *A View of the Conduct of the Executive*, Philadelphia, 1797, untrimmed and in the original boards.

Zobel gift. Mrs. Alfred Zobel has presented a copy of the English Bible published in London in 1601. In addition to the Old and New Testaments, the volume includes separate printings of Francis Junius's commentary on Revelations and the Book of Psalms.

Recent Notable Purchases

The Solton and Julia Engel Collection has been strengthened and enhanced during the year by a group of editions signed or inscribed by Gertrude Stein, Robert Louis Stevenson, Edwin Arlington Robinson, Ezra Pound, E. E. Cummings, and Richard Eberhart. Two works are of outstanding literary importance. The first of these is a copy of a pamphlet by Stevenson, *Father Damien: An Open Letter to the Reverend Dr. Hyde of Honolulu*, privately published by the author in Sydney in 1890. Our copy contains Stevenson's corrections in ink. Readers will recall that Father Damien, a Belgian missionary, went in 1873 to the neglected leper settlement on Molokai Island in the Hawaiian group where he spent the rest of his life ministering single-handed to the welfare of more than seven hundred lepers. In 1885 he contracted leprosy; he died four years later. Stevenson was moved to write this spirited and striking "vindication" of the memory of Father Damien.

Also added to the Engel Collection is an extraordinary associa-

tion copy of the first edition of Gertrude Stein's *The Making of Americans*, published in Paris by The Three Mountains Press in 1925, and presented by the author to Sherwood Anderson. The work is inscribed on the front end paper, "To Sherwood who does / make Americans with love / from Gertrude Stein." During the 1920's Anderson visited Miss Stein in Paris and was charmed by her wit and gaiety and influenced by her writing style. Miss Stein tells us in *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* that "really except Sherwood there was no one in America who could write a clear and passionate sentence."

To the Gonzalez Lodge Collection of Greek and Roman authors we have recently added fifteen editions published in the fifteenth century. The most striking of these new acquisitions is the first illustrated edition of Horace, which was printed in Strassburg in 1498 by Johann Grüninger. The *Opera*, with commentary by the poet Jacob Locher, is embellished throughout by more than 160 woodcuts. Many of the scenes are built up from sectional blocks which are used numerous times in different groupings. One of the most famous of all the blocks is that which appears on the initial leaf depicting the laurel-crowned Horace seated at an elaborate gothic desk expounding his works. Another charming scene shows Calliope, surrounded by the muses, crowning the kneeling poet.

Also acquired by means of the Lodge Fund are three works printed in Venice in 1480 by an anonymous press renowned for its fine, bold Roman type: Lorenzo Valla, *Elegantiae Linguae Latinae*; Quintilianus, *Institutiones Oratoriae*; and Suetonius Tranquillus, *Vitae Caesarum*. Each of these editions is also highly esteemed for its text. The first page of the Suetonius is handsomely decorated with a large initial "I" painted in gold and colors. The work is rubricated throughout and the large initials are colored in red and blue.

By means of the Friends Endowed Book Fund we have acquired the international first edition of James Fenimore Cooper's *The*

Water Witch; or, The Skimmer of the Seas. Published in three volumes in Dresden in 1830, this edition is one of the great rarities of this American novelist. The romance is set in the region of New York City at the close of the seventeenth century. Cooper began



JULIUS CAESAR, WITH BRUTUS AND CASSIUS

This woodcut is from the first illustrated edition of Horace's *Opera*, Strassburg, 1498. (Lodge fund.)

his story of the brigantine "The Skimmer of the Seas" and of her pirate captain in Sorrento during the autumn of 1829, and he finished the novel in Rome during the winter. As was his habit when living abroad, the author arranged to have a small issue printed for distribution to his publishers in England and America. A printer in Dresden had a few copies ready by mid-September, a month

later the London edition was announced, and the Philadelphia edition appeared in December. Only six copies of the Dresden *Water Witch* are recorded as having survived, and our copy is the one from the library of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland and King of Hanover, the fifth son of George III (of England) and Queen Charlotte.

PICTURE CREDITS

The sources of some of the illustrations in this issue are as follows: (1) *Article by Mary C. Hyde*: The portrait of Sir Thomas Bodley was engraved by H. T. Ryall from the original of Cornelius Jensen in the Bodleian Gallery, Oxford. The portrait of Edward S. Harkness was painted by Frank O. Salisbury and was reproduced from the cover of the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin* of February 9, 1940. (2) *Article by Samuel Devons*: The portrait of Sir Isaac Newton was reproduced from The Royal Society Newton Tercentenary Celebrations 15-19 July, 1946 (Cambridge University Press, 1947). (3) *The Newton Commentary*: "The Alchemist" is from *The Masterpieces of Teniers, the Younger* (New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company, n.d.). (4) *Our Growing Collections*: Gabriela Mistral's *Poemas de las Madres*, for which Andre Racz did the illustrations, was published by Editorial del Pacifico, S.A. in Santiago de Chile (1950).

We are indebted to Mr. Francis T. P. Plimpton for lending to us for reproduction the 1932 photograph of his father with President Hoover.

Activities of the Friends

Meetings

Twentieth Anniversary of the Friends. As anticipated, the Winter Meeting of the Friends took place on March 3 in the Faculty Room in Low Memorial Library. The focal point of the program was the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of our association, which actually took place on May 1, 1951. Dr. Morris H. Saffron presided.

The first of the two speakers was Mrs. Donald F. Hyde, who was one of the founding members of our group and who has continued to be a member of the Council in the intervening years. Her topic: "A History of Library Friends and the Phoenix Story of Columbia." Paralleling this, Gordon N. Ray, also a member of the Council, spoke on the prospects of the usefulness of our group to the Libraries in the forthcoming years. One of the features of the occasion was a special presentation to Dr. Dallas Pratt, who has been editor of *Columbia Library Columns* from its inception in 1951, of a complete set of the publication in quarter-leather binding. The presentation is to include future volumes in matching binding.

To mark the anniversary occasion, the Friends of the Columbia Libraries presented a four-page autograph document in the hand of Sir Isaac Newton comprising his commentary on Monte-Snyders's *Tractatus de Medicina Universali*. . . . The manuscript was contained in a red morocco slip case. Mr. Warren J. Haas, the Director of Libraries, accepted the presentation on behalf of the Libraries, expressing appreciation for the selection of this unique manuscript on a scientific subject. This gift constituted the newest addition to twenty previously donated rarities from our association. The earlier gifts were on exhibit in cases in the Rotunda, where our members could examine them during the cocktail period which preceded this dinner meeting.

Bancroft Awards Dinner. On Thursday, April 15, the members of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries, historians, university officials, and their guests—numbering approximately three hundred and sixty in all—assembled in the Rotunda of Low Memorial Library for the annual Bancroft Prize Dinner. Dr. Morris H. Saffron, Chairman of the Friends, presided.

President William J. McGill announced the winners of the 1971 awards for books published in 1970 which a jury deemed to be the best in the fields of American history, American international relations, and American diplomacy. The works were as follows: *The Image Empire: A History of Broadcasting in the United States*, Volume III—from 1953, by Erik Barnouw; *Birth Control in America: The Career of Margaret Sanger*, by David M. Kennedy; and *Andrew Carnegie*, by Joseph Frazier Wall. The President presented to each of the winners a \$4,000 award from funds provided by the Bancroft Foundation.

The publishers which issued the books received certificates which were presented by the Chairman of the Friends. The representatives of the companies of the books listed above were: Mr. John R. B. Brett-Smith, President of the Oxford University Press (which published the books by both Messrs. Barnouw and Wall); and Mr. Chester Kerr, Director of the Yale University Press (which published the Kennedy book).

All seemed to enjoy the occasion, including especially the responses made by the three prize winners. Mrs. Francis Henry Lenygon and Mrs. Arthur C. Holden constituted the Bancroft Prize Dinner Committee.

THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES

PRIVILEGES

INVITATIONS to exhibitions, lectures and other special events.

USE OF BOOKS in the reading rooms of the Libraries.

OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT LIBRARIANS, including those in charge of the specialized collections, about material of interest to a member. (Each Division Head has our members' names on file.)

OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE most Columbia University Press books at 20 per cent discount (if ordered via Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends).

FREE SUBSCRIPTION to *Columbia Library Columns*.

* * *

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SUSTAINING. Any person contributing not less than \$50.00 a year.

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